

City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139, www.miamibeachfl.gov

Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager
Tel: 305-673-7010 , Fax: 305-673-7782

NO. LTC # **014-2016**

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: January 13, 2016

SUBJECT: Beachwalk Projects Update



The purpose of this Letter to Commission is to provide you with the schedules for completion of various segments of the Beachwalk projects (Attachment).

BACKGROUND

The Beachwalk projects are part of the larger Atlantic Greenway Network (AGN), which is a system of bikeways designed to promote alternative transportation. They extend in a north/south direction and run between the erosion control line and the dune system. They complement the neighborhood bicycle facilities, which extend in an east-west as well as north-south directions through the south, middle, and north beach neighborhoods. The beachwalk will connect area business districts, cultural and tourism centers, residential neighborhoods, parking facilities, parks, schools, and the beaches.

At this time, the Beachwalk is complete from:

- South Pointe Park to 3rd Street
- 5th Street to 23rd Street
- 64th Street to 79th Street where it meets the North Shore Open Space Park Promenade
- 79th Street to 87th Street (North Shore Open Space Park)

The gaps in these beachside paths include:

- 3rd Street to 5th Street (Beachwalk II)
- 23rd Street to 47th Street (Boardwalk Replacement- Middle Beach South Recreational Corridor)
- 47th Street to 64th Street (Middle Beach Recreational Corridor)
- 79th Street to 87th Street (North Shore Open Space Park)

STATUS

The City has several Beachwalk projects currently in the design and permitting phase.

Beachwalk II

The Beachwalk II Project was originally slated to connect South Pointe Drive to 5th Street. However, City was only able to obtain easements from the properties south of 3rd Street. So the Beachwalk II Project was split into two phases: Phase I (South Pointe Drive to 3rd Street) and Phase II (3rd Street to 5th Street). Phase I was completed the end 2014 and Phase II is currently in the design and permitting stage. The proposed pathway for Phase II will be located on State lands and will traverse through the existing dune system. This has increased the

permitting timeline significantly. All impacts to the dune system will need to be mitigated through planting additional dunes toward the eastern tow of the existing dune. The 90% design plans of the Beachwalk II Phase II were submitted to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) on December 24th, 2015. The FDEP has 30-days to review the package and either issue a Request for Additional Information or confirm file completion. Then FDEP has, at maximum, 90-days from file completion to issue the permit. The Florida Department of Transportation is funding \$850,000 of the estimated \$2.5 million cost. FDOT funds will be programmed for July 2016. Federal regulations prevent the project from being bid out until these funds are programed and made available by FDOT. Construction is anticipated to commence at the end of 2016.

Middle Beach Recreational Corridor (MBRC)

The Middle Beach Recreational Corridor (MBRC) project will connect 47th Street to 64th Street. On November 19th 2014, the City Commission instructed staff to redesign the pathway to a wider width of 25 feet to better accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists. This change in scope has increased the projected timeline. The 90% design plans of the MBRC were submitted to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) on September 23rd, 2015. FDEP submitted minor comments that were addressed and now the City is waiting for final comments. We anticipate receiving the final comments from FDEP by the end of January. Once the permit is received and the City receives the funds from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), the project will be competitively bid. The City has also requested an advancement of the funds of \$1M from FDOT to commence construction during summer of 2016 and conclude the project in 2017.

Both beachwalk projects are designed to minimize impact on the sensitive dune system, however mitigation will be required for areas where the system will be impacted and this has also extended the permitting schedule. The City is working closely with the designers and FDEP to advance the permitting approval.

Middle Beach South Recreational Corridor- Boardwalk replacement

The City is negotiating the contract for the design and permitting of the Middle Beach South Recreational Corridor, which includes removing the remaining segments of boardwalk from 23rd to 46th Street and replacing with a paver pathway. It is anticipated that this design and permitting effort will take 24 to 30 months. The design will also include dune enhancement, removal of exotic vegetation, planting of native vegetation, turtle friendly lighting and where feasible a wider paver pathway ranging between 25 and 15 feet in width.

North Shore Open Space Park

The serpentine path inside North Shore Open Space Park (79th Street to 87 Terrace) serves as the northern link to the beachwalk. The North Shore Open Space Park Master Plan will include a beachwalk with similar design features to the beachwalk projects to the South.

Coastal Bikeway Working Group – Connecting Miami Beach to Fort Lauderdale

Last year, under the direction of the Mayor and City Commission, the Coastal Bikeway Working Group was created to encourage the coastal municipalities from Miami Beach north to Ft. Lauderdale to construct a continuous coastal pathway. This regional initiative supplements the City's localized efforts and promotes alternative mode of transportation connecting our neighboring coastal cities. Through this group the City has shared information about our projects and provided guidance on potential funding opportunities and design and permitting challenges.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me.

Attachment

Beachwalk and Baywalk Segments

KGB/SMT/ESW/FCT

City of Miami Beach: Beachwalk and Baywalk Segments

